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RAREFIED ENTRY OF THE GALILEO PROBE
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Simulated Rarefied Entry of the Galileo Probe into the Atmosphere of Jupiter

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Flow properties and aerodynamics are computed with a direct simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC) method for rarefied entry of the Galileo Probe into the atmosphere of Jupiter. Accurate predictions of vehicle drag coefficients are needed in order to assess atmospheric properties from the onboard Atmosphere Structure Experiment where highly-sensitive accelerometers will measure the drag force to within 10-6 barr during the initial entry phase at high altitudes. The corresponding flow rarefaction extends from the free molecule limit to the near continuum transition regime (Re<1000). Simulation results indicate that $C_{\rm p}$ varies from 2.1 at the free molecule limit down to 1.6 at ${\rm Re}_{\infty}=1,000$. Temperatures, densities, and internal energies throughout the flow field were also computed at each altitude ranging from 735 km to 353 km above the 1 barr level in the Jovian atmosphere. Surface heating and temperatures of the probe were computed directly in the DSMC code by assuming radiative equilibrium. Material response was re-assessed accurately during entry by accounting for conductivity, heat capacity, and pyrolysis which led to surface material mass efflux several times that of the freestream mass influx. The simulation also accounted for the quantum nature of the rotational energy mode of the dominant atmospheric species H₂ through partial internal excitation in the freestream gas.

NOMENCLATURE

A	thermal accommodation coefficient
$C_{\mathtt{p}}$	drag coefficient
D^{-}	diameter
g_{j}	degeneracy of rotational quantum level j
j	rotational quantum level
k	Boltzmann constant, 1.3805×10^{-23} J/K
Kn	Knudsen Number
M	Mach number
q	net convective heat flux
Re	Reynolds number based on diameter
r_{j}	normalized rotational energy of level j
\dot{T}	temperature
t .	time during entry, starting at 735 km
Z	collision number for internal relaxation
α	VHS exponent of intermolecular potential
ε	material radiative emissivity
ζ_r	rotational degrees of freedom
θ	characteristic mode temperature
μ	viscosity (kg/m ² -s)
$ ho^{-1}$	mass-density (kg/m ³)
σ	Stefan-Boltzmann const., 5.67×10 ⁻⁸ W/(m ² K ⁴

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Subscripts:

ם	deep-space value
ref	reference value
r	pertains to the rotational mode
v	pertains to the vibrational mode
\boldsymbol{w}	value at wall or surface
\boldsymbol{w}	value at wall or surface
∞	freestream value

INTRODUCTION

Just prior to encountering and orbiting Jupiter, the Galileo spacecraft will release a probe which will enter the Jovian atmosphere. During the initial aerobraking phase, the 45-degree blunted-cone probe will be protected from heating by a carbon phenolic shield. Once the probe velocity has been reduced from 47.5 km/s to 0.74 km/s, and entry heating has diminished, the probe will eject its heat shield and deploy a parachute. During descent, the probe will make several in situ measurements of atmospheric properties and transmit that data to the orbiting spacecraft. However, an Atmospheric Structure Experiment, similar to that employed in the Pioneer Venus mission, will also be on the Galileo probe to measure deceleration during the initial high-altitude entry phase. This experiment deduces atmospheric density, pressure, and temperature from deceleration measurements so long as the vehicle drag co-

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efficient is known a priori. The instrument is sufficiently sensitive to detect any deceleration exceeding 10^{-5} m/s². Consequently, meaningful properties can be assessed for the Jovian upper atmosphere where the probe encounters highly rarefied flow during entry just prior to peak heating and ablation of the heat shield. This flow regime is bounded by the effective free molecule limit at 750 km altitude ($Re_{\infty} = 0.1$) and the near-continuum limit at 350 km ($Re_{\infty} = 1,000$). Note that since Jupiter has no identifiable surface, altitude is measured relative to the 1.0 barr pressure level in the Jovian atmosphere.

Accuracy of the experiment, however, depends upon the accuracy with which the probe drag coefficient is estimated. Intrieri² conducted a series of experiments in the ballistic range facilities at NASA Ames Research Center to measure the drag of several blunt-body configurations including the probes from Pioneer Venus and Galileo. Results for each were very similar, leading to values near $C_{\rm D}=1.1$ for ${\rm Re}_{\infty}>1,000$. However, $C_{\rm D}$ rises significantly (approaching values near 2.0) for decreasing ${\rm Re}_{\infty}$ below 1,000, although Intrieri's experiments were not reliable in the rarefied regime. Furthermore, the experimental surface materials, gas species, and flow conditions (Mach number, density, etc.) differed significantly from those anticipated for the probe entry at a given Reynolds number.

Due to the lack of sufficient experimental data, the probe aerodynamics must be estimated computationally. Unfortunately, the flow regime is ill-suited to simulations which are based upon the continuum Navier-Stokes equations due to limitations in the constitutive relations for heat flux and shear stress. Instead, highly rarefied flows, for which the ratio of molecular mean free path to a body dimension is large (Knudsen number, Kn>0.10), are best simulated computationally with direct simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC) particle methods.^{3,4} Here, gas dynamics is modeled directly by the motion and interaction of thousands or millions of discrete particles. Particles which strike the vehicle may reflect back into the flow with velocities and internal energies corresponding to full or partial accommodation to the surface. The simulation permits accurate assessment of vehicle aerodynamics and heating along with properties of the flow field.

The objective of the present study was to assess the drag coefficient for the Galileo probe during entry from 750 km down to 350 km altitude in the Jovian atmosphere. Due to uncertainties in the applicable surface thermal accommodation coefficient A, simulations were repeated using different values to quantify its effects upon the vehicle entry. Surface heating was evaluated to determine the extent of pyrolysis of the heat shield through the use of the Charring Material Thermal Response and Ablation (CMA) program. This code models transient convective heating, radiation, in-depth conduction, heat capacity, and the flow of pyroly-

sis gases through the porous material. Together, these codes simulate the entry environment and response of the Galileo probe to estimate the appropriate vehicle aerodynamics required for this and other aerobraking missions.

SIMULATION MODELS

The DSMC code employed in the present study was developed by Baganoff and McDonald^{4,5} and enhanced for better application to rarefied aeropass maneuvers.⁶ The flow field is divided into cubic cartesian cells to facilitate selection of colliding particles and sampling of macroscopic flow properties. The body geometry is modeled by a composite of planar facets in those cells through which the body surfaces pass. Each surface facet collects statistics regarding momentum and energy flux and may assume a surface temperature independent of neighboring facets. To simulate entry with the DSMC method, one must first specify properties of both gas-gas and gas-surface interactions.

Gas-Gas Interaction Models

Molecular interaction is simulated by the Variable Hard-Sphere (VHS) model of Bird⁷ in which the collision outcome corresponds to isotropic scattering, akin to the mechanics of hard sphere interactions. The collision rate, however, corresponds to an inverse power-law intermolecular potential of exponent α . This parameter must be specified between the limits of the Maxwell molecule ($\alpha=4$) and the Hard sphere ($\alpha=\infty$), and may be estimated from the known temperature dependence of gas viscosity μ as follows,

$$\frac{\mu}{\mu_{\text{ref}}} = \left(\frac{T}{T_{\text{ref}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{\alpha}}.$$
 (1)

Transport properties of the Jovian atmosphere, thought to be composed by a mixture of 89% $\rm H_2$ and 11% $\rm He$, were calculated from kinetic theory by Biolsi. That work employed sophisticated semiempirical interaction potentials to solve the detailed collision integrals for viscosity, thermal conductivity, and binary diffusion for the gas mixture. Biolsi's results for viscosity are plotted in Fig. 1 and compared to curves corresponding to the VHS model. The VHS parameters which yield best agreement in the figure and were employed in the current work are given by $\mu_{\rm ref} = 2.24 \times 10^{-5} \ {\rm kg/m}\mbox{-s}, T_{\rm ref} = 1000 \ {\rm K}$, and $\alpha = 10.5$.

Of additional concern in gas-gas interactions is the inelastic exchange of molecular energies due to relaxation of the internal energy modes for rotation and vibration. The mechanics of these exchange processes are modeled in the DSMC code by the methods of Borgnakke and Larsen⁹ and Haas, et al. ¹⁰ These involve partitioning post-collision thermal energies in a manner which corresponds to equilibrium distributions. The rates of rotational and vibrational relaxation are dictated by collision numbers Z_r and Z_v , respectively. Solutions of the master equation using state-to-state transition probabilities estimated from quasi-classical methods¹¹⁻¹³ have led to rotational relaxation rates in H_2 described by $Z_r = 100$. Simple application of the Millikan and White¹⁴ empirical expression for vibrational relaxation rates suggests that Z_v is several orders of magnitude larger than Z_r , leading to exceedingly slow vibrational excitation. Furthermore, given the high characteristic temperature of vibration ($\theta_v = 6320 \text{ K}$)¹¹ for H_2 , it is unlikely that the vibrational mode will contribute significantly to the thermophysics of this flow and was therefore neglected in the present work.

DSMC methods typically model molecular rotation as a continuous energy mode with two degrees of freedom, $\zeta_r = 2$. However, at freestream conditions, the quantized nature of the rotational mode for H_2 leads to an effective number of degrees of freedom below two as a result of its high characteristic temperature ($\theta_r = 85.33 \text{ K}$). As plotted in Fig. 2, dependence of ζ_r upon temperature T is described by the rotational partition function and may be expressed as follows,

$$\zeta_r = 2 \frac{\sum_j g_j r_j \exp\left(-r_j\right)}{\sum_j g_j \exp\left(-r_j\right)}$$
 (2)

where the normalized energy r_j and degeneracy g_j per rotational quantum level j are defined as follows, ¹⁶

$$r_j = j(j+1)\frac{\theta_r}{kT},\tag{3}$$

$$q_j = 2j + 1. (4)$$

Rather than encorporate a detailed model of the quantized rotational mode into the code, a simpler adaptation of the continuous energy model was employed in the present work. First, it was recognized that collisions promoting rotational excitation will occur predominantly in the high-temperature regions of the flow. Since the rotational degrees of freedom would become fully excited in these regions, the normal Borgnakke-Larsen model for exchange mechanics was employed assuming $\zeta_r = 2$. However, since the freestream temperature was fairly low, incoming particles were initialized such that the mean rotational energy was given by $\zeta_r kT/2$ where $\zeta_r < 2$ is evaluated from Eq. (2). This prevents the freestream from being too energetic in rotation, such as would occur if initialized with $\zeta_r = 2$.

Gas-Surface Interaction Models

Details regarding the interaction of gas molecules with surfaces are not well understood in general, and are dependent upon several factors including surface roughness, impact dynamics, molecular potentials, and thermal energies. However, simple engineering models often suffice to simulate interaction phenomena. In the present work, a single thermal accommodation coefficient A describes the fraction of particles which accommodate fully to the surface versus those which reflect specularly. Full accommodation implies diffuse reflection of the particle from the surface with thermal energy corresponding to the surface wall temperature, Tw. Rather than assign some temperature to the surface, the code couples a simple surface heat transfer model into the flow solution to compute T_w directly. 17,18 This model assumes that each surface facet is in radiative equilibrium with space at temperature $T_{\rm D} = 150$ K, leading to the energy balance given by

$$q - \varepsilon \sigma \left(T_w^4 - T_p^4 \right) = 0. \tag{5}$$

Here, q is the net convected heat flux to each facet accounting for both incident and reflected energy. As will be described later, this model can be enhanced to account for material heat capacity, thermal conductivity through the heat shield, and pyrolysis of the surface material.

Definitive values for A and ε for the interaction of Jovian atmospheric gases upon carbon phenolic material at flight conditions are not readily available. As used in the this study, a surface emissivity of $\varepsilon=0.85$ was suggested by Bueche¹⁹ from ground-based experiments, flight data, and theoretical predictions, and is at least consistent with estimates cited elsewhere.²⁰⁻²³ Appropriate values for A may be found with even less certainty than ε from limited related experimental data²⁴ and theoretical²⁵ results. It therefore proved necessary to repeat simulations using different values of A to assess sensitivity of the results to this parameter.

SIMULATION RESULTS

The DSMC code was used to simulated entry of the Galileo probe at several points along its trajectory from 735 km altitude to 353 km. Table 1 lists the simulation conditions for each case with atmospheric data taken from Orton. Note that time is measured relative to the 735 km trajectory point. For all cases the velocity was assumed to be 47,450 m/s and the Knudsen number and Reynolds number were based on the probe diameter (1.265 m). The grid resolution employed in the present work is defined in Table 1 by the size of the probe diameter measured in cell-lengths, and was sufficiently fine to yield less than 1% error in drag and heating. ²⁶ The geometry of the probe is compared to the simulation models in Fig. 3. Note that only one quadrant of

the probe was simulated, taking advantage of two planes of symmetry of the body.

In general, flows with greater Re_∞ require greater resolution in order to resolve flow gradients and avoid overpredicting drag and heat transfer. However, the required size of the flow domain increases with lower Re because molecules which reflected from the probe surface are capable of diffusing far into the flow when collisions are scarce. The extent of the upstream diffusion of particles is depicted in the plot of flow temperature along the stagnation streamline in Fig. 4. The upstream domain boundary for each simulation case was sufficiently far upstream that the translational temperature was near its freestream value to prevent overprediction of heat transfer and drag.26Density profiles along the stagnation streamline are plotted in Fig. 5 and also exhibit the effects of rarefaction. Note that no clear shock structure is observed since the shock is fully merged with the body layer. Density rose considerably near the body surface due to particle reflection from the relatively cold surface.

For each case, the simulation employed at least 16 particles per cell in the freestream and roughly 3 to 7 million particles total. The code was optimized for vector-processing on Cray supercomputers, requiring roughly 0.6 μ sec/particle/timestep on the Cray C-90 or a total run time of 5,000-8,000 CPU seconds depending upon the case. Memory requirements ranged from 50 to 200 megawords.

Results of each case, identified by Re_{∞} , are presented in Table 2. The cases were run with A=0.75 and several were repeated with $A=\{0.5,0.9\}$. Heating of the nose region was highly sensitive to accommodation coefficient A while drag was fairly insensitive, particularly for the highest and lowest Re_{∞} cases. Simulated drag coefficients for the Galileo probe are plotted in Fig. 6 and compared to the experimental ballistic range results of Intrieri for spheres and the Pioneer Venus probe. Unfortunately, Intrieri's results for the Galileo probe were all at high angles of attack and were of questionable quality at low Re_{∞} .

In general, drag dropped with increasing ${\rm Re}_{\infty}$ above 10, but did not appear to blend well with the high- ${\rm Re}_{\infty}$ experimental data. However, the experiments were performed at lower Mach numbers (roughly ${\rm M}_{\infty}=14.5$) in CO₂ compared with the high Mach numbers expected for Galileo entry in the H₂-He Jovian atmosphere. Indeed, for comparing highly rarefied flows, a suitable parameter for correlating the data would be the Knudsen number ${\rm Kn}_{\infty}$. Re-plotting the data in Fig. 7 suggests a smoother transition between the simulation results and the experimental work.

Nonetheless, it was instructive to simulate a few of Intrieri's experiments for more direct comparison. Spheres flying at roughly $M_{\infty}=14.5$ in pure CO_2 for $Re_{\infty}=\{192,4564\}$ were simulated with the DSMC code employing the same surface description as above. The results are

included in the drag plots and appear to follow the experimental trends quite well. Additional simulations will be performed to reproduce the Pioneer Venus probe experiments and results will be reported in the final paper.

Surface Temperatures and Pyrolysis

The DSMC calculations above employed a radiative-equilibrium energy balance to compute the surface temperature. This boundary condition neglects any effects of heat capacitance and heat conduction in the spacecraft heat shield and, therefore, provides an upper bound for the surface temperature. The calculations also neglected pyrolysis from the heat shield which can be significant for a high-energy incident flow at very low densities.

To check the validity and accuracy of these assumptions, the CMA code^{27,28} was used to calculate the onedimensional heat transfer into the carbon phenolic heat shield at the stagnation point. Temperature-dependent material properties, surface re-radiation, and in-depth pyrolysis were included in the calculation, but surface ablation was neglected. The initial temperature was estimated to be 150 K just prior to entry from deep space. The aerothermal heat flux was taken from the DSMC results associated with A = 0.75 appearing in Table 2.

Figure 8 presents the transient surface temperature at the stagnation point during Galileo entry. As expected, the CMA-calculated surface temperature is always below the radiative-equilibrium temperature. The temperature difference between the two results increases from about 200 K at the initial time ($\text{Re}_{\infty} = 0.098$) to 1130 K at 55 seconds ($\text{Re}_{\infty} = 926$).

Figure 9 compares the stagnation point pyrolysis-gas mass flux with the free stream mass flux. The pyrolysis gas flux becomes significant between 43 and 48 seconds as the material temperature rises from 600 K to 1000 K. At 46.4 seconds (Re=103.4) the pyrolysis gas flux is more than 20 times the free stream mass flux.

Perhaps the drag coefficient does not depend strongly on the surface temperature which can itself be significantly below the radiative equilibrium value during entry. However, the surface mass flux due to pyrolysis of the material is significant once the probe drops below roughly 420 km. This could lead to a noticeable increase in drag and a decrease in heating. Thorough simulation requires that this mass flux be coupled directly into the DSMC code. Such modifications are underway and the results will be reported in the final paper.

Concluding Remarks

Drag on the Galileo probe during initial entry into the Jovian atmosphere was computed with a DSMC method, and the results were consistent with the experimental re-

sults. However, drag varies considerably with Reynold's numbers in the range $10 < \text{Re}_{\infty} < 10,000$ at the high M_{∞} flight conditions anticipated for the probe. Results correlate better with experiment when plotted against Knudsen number rather than Reynolds number under highly rarefied conditions. Simple models for gas-gas and gas-surface interaction permit efficient yet meaningful simulation of the flow, although the effects of significant surface pyrolysis warrant further investigation. Uncertainties in the thermal accommodation coefficient A have minimal impact on final results due to insensitivity of drag to A despite great dependence of heating upon A. Further comparisons to available experimental data will be made and the pyrolysis models will be coupled directly into the DSMC code before the final paper is presented.

Acknowledgements

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Table 2: Galileo Probe Entry Simulation Results

Re	A CD		q-nose	T-nose	
			(W/m2)	(K)	
0.10	0.75	2.060	766	358.0	
1.03	0.75	2.048	6,495	602.4	
8.69	0.75	2.024	48,728	998.1	
34.01	0.75	1.970	168,523	1,365.1	
103.41	0.75	1.896	448,881	1,737.4	
322.47	0.75	1.777	1,201,262	2,236.4	
926.15	0.75	1.629	2,980,082	2,798.3	
0.10	0.50	2.061	474	318.8	
8.69	0.50	2.046	32,564	909.9	
103.41	0.50	1.934	309,602	1,580.3	
926.15	0.50	1.628	2,085,700	2,545.3	
0.10	0.90	2.043	848	366.8	
8.69	0.90	2.008	57,941	1,050.3	
103.41	0.90	1.864	528,677	1,826.8	
926.15	0.90	1.648	3,559,079	2,931.1	

Table 1: Galileo Probe Entry Simulation Conditions

	Alt.	Re	M	Kn	T	ρ	D
(sec)	(km)				(K)	(kg/m3)	(cells)
0.00	735.00	0.10	31.47	415.59	425.0	2.024E-11	16
19.00	604.00	1.03	34.15	43.01	360.5	1.896E-10	16
33.50	506.00	8.69	37.20	5.55	303.2	1.422E-09	16
41.00	453.00	34.01	39.61	1.51	267.0	5.100E-09	16
46.40	416.00	103.41	41.86	0.53	238.7	1.435E-08	32
51.25	382.00	322.47	44.58	0.18	210.0	4.097E-08	32
55.50	353.00	926.15	46.35	0.07	194.0	1.114E-07	48

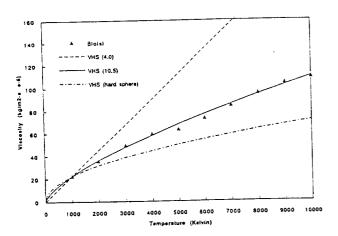


Fig. 1 Temperature variation of viscosity of the Jovian atmospheric gas mixture computed by Biolsi and fit with the VHS model.

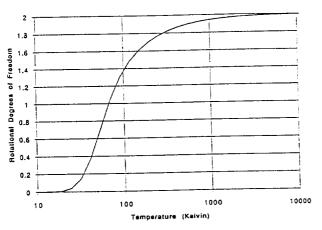


Fig. 2 Temperature dependence of the rotational degrees of freedom for H_2 .

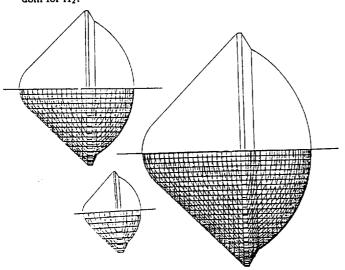


Fig. 3 Comparisons of probe geometry to simulation configurations employing differing resolutions.

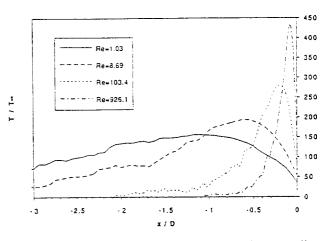


Fig. 4 Translational temperature along the stagnation streamline ahead of the probe for entry at several values of Re_{∞} .

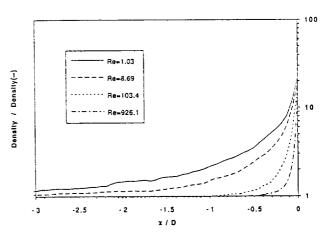


Fig. 5 Mass density along the stagnation streamline ahead of the probe for entry at several values of Re_{∞} .

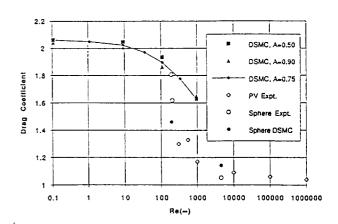


Fig. 6 Drag coefficients from DSMC simulation of Galileo entry compared to results of related experiments of Intrieri; includes results from simulations of sphere experiments. Results plotted against Re_∞.



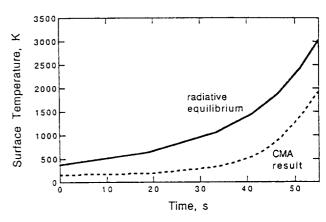


Fig. 8 Radiative-equilibrium and CMA-calculated stagnation point material temperature for initial entry period of the Galileo probe.

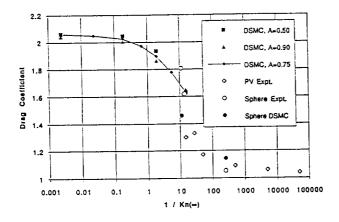


Fig. 7 Drag coefficients from DSMC simulation of Galileo entry compared to results of related experiments of Intrieri; includes results from simulations of sphere experiments. Results plotted against Kn_{∞} .

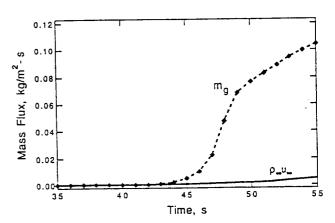


Fig. 9 Comparison of freestream mass flux and CMA-calculated pyrolysis gas mass efflux from the probe surface during inital entry phase.